

# ALIA campaign - lobbying and collaborating for copyright reform

All our members are affected by copyright. The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) has put out a major issues paper *Copyright and the Digital Economy* with 55 questions. [www.alrc.gov.au/publications/copyright-ip42](http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/copyright-ip42). Our submission is due on 16 November.

We are working with other user groups, including the IT industry, research bodies and scholars, educational institutions, and organisations representing public interests, and liaising closely with the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee.

Our submission will reflect some basic principles:

- Simplifying legislation so everyone can understand their rights and responsibilities
- The importance of a degree of flexibility in a rapidly changing online environment
- The need for libraries to be able to carry out mass digitisation of unique materials
- A technology-neutral approach
- Legislation that embraces the ethos of creative commons.

We have had more than 36 responses from members to our call for feedback about the Copyright Issues Paper. They have come from public libraries, school libraries, information professionals in special libraries, students, and others, all of whom are concerned about the possible implications of new legislation.

## Working with the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC)

We are feeding into the Australian Libraries Copyright Council submission, as well as preparing our own, allied, response.

The Australian Libraries Copyright Committee (ALCC) is the cross-sectoral body acting on behalf of Australian libraries and archives on copyright and related matters. It seeks to have the interests of users of libraries and archives recognised and reflected in copyright legislation, and, in so doing, help build and sustain a copyright regime which promotes learning, culture and the free flow of information and ideas in the interests of all Australians.

The ALCC has representatives from the following organisations:

- Australian Library and Information Association
- National and State Libraries Australasia
- National Library of Australia
- National Archives of Australia
- The Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities
- The Australian Society of Archivists
- Council of Australian University Librarians
- Australian Government Libraries Information Network

The ALCC considers the impact of copyright law reform on Australian libraries and archives and provides advice to the Federal Government on how to maintain a balance between reasonable access to creative works for copyright users on the one hand and an incentive for copyright creators and owners on the other.

The role of the ALCC is to provide an ongoing mechanism to:

- Monitor proposed changes to Australian copyright legislation.
- Make submissions to government on copyright and related issues.
- Provide regular information to the Australian library and archives community with regards to copyright issues and responsibilities (note: a members' advisory service is provided by the Australian Library and Information Association).
- Act as a steering committee for the Copyright Adviser (Law and Policy).
- Interact with international organisations on copyright issues as appropriate.
- Monitor international copyright legislation and developments.

## Keeping you informed on the latest news on copyright

Another member benefit of ALIA's membership of ALCC is the monthly *Keeping up with Copyright*. It is accessible on the ALIA copyright webpage [www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright](http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/copyright).